



He may be going deaf but Phil Lynott carries on with . . .

said 'I love you' so I tried to write a song that took care of that."

Basically, they want to produce sounds that are completely varied.

"When a song comes up that sounds commercial, we will release it as a single but we don't want to be dependent on the charts and I don't write songs with the charts in mind", he says.

It was their tour with Slade that changed everything. They saw how the kids reacted and decided that was what was needed. Fortunately their first single, at the time of the tour, was the Whiskey hit.

"That tour gave us an insight into how young kids live", said Phil.

"After all", he went on, "they are the people who are going to buy the records. The older you get, the fewer records you buy."

But surely wasn't that what they didn't want to do; write songs with the charts in mind?

one in the band for that. I always wanted to do what I wanted to do, then on the Slade tour, I watched them. It took me a long time to stop pulling them apart, but after that tour there were a few blues bands playing around, but they were not moving and I decided I liked what Slade were doing better."

Phil: "We know the business is going to use us, but we will use it to get our music across. If it means wearing flash clothes by all means I will do it. We are not selling out with our music. We play what we want to play. We are not after fame, we just want to get our music across to the people."

They have now decided that what matters in a single is that you should be able to dance to it. "The other things we will put on albums so that they are for select listening. But really we would like to make it as both a singles band and with albums."

In the next few weeks they are getting a new stage show together ready for their October tour in England.

"It's gonna be more exciting", said Phil. "We want to have more fun because basically we are a Transit band. I love

zooming up and down England feeling like a gypsy. And I love the accents. I love the North."

Apart from those areas, the band is very, very popular in Ireland, as well as all over Europe where Whiskey was a huge hit. After their October tour they return to Germany to cash in on their success there, then they return to Ireland for Christmas.

Eventually they hope to break into America too, but Phil says: "We are in no hurry. If we were an English band that's where we would have our sights set, but as it is, we hope to go there about February."

So in the meantime Phil, who started his working life in a Dublin iron foundry and can boast a South American dad, and Eric, who has been a lamplighter and once played for Van Morrison, can just look forward to their tours and hopefully the right choice of material for their next single. If it's the right one, they could still become Ireland's best export since Them.

**Peter
Harvey**

Lizzy — Ireland's top export

WHEN THIN LIZZY followed up their smash hit Whiskey In The Jar with, for me, one of the best singles of the year — the delicious Randolph's Tango — I for one thought they would become the new giants of rock.

They seemed to have everything that was missing at the time: a young powerful image, a peculiar knack for producing a telling hook and a touch of that 'ole Irish romanticism and whimsy that Van Morrison first brought to records.

That it was not a hit, would be enough to daunt the spirits of most pretenders to the rock crown. But Thin Lizzy remain reasonably unmoved and continue to go from strength to strength on the basis of the success abroad and, to some extent, the respect

which Randolph's Tango brought them.

"A lot of people didn't think it was us", said bassist and composer Phil Lynott, who despite his hearing difficulties, is continuing with the band regardless.

"Perhaps the song was too classy, and that was its downfall. It was so subtle and easy on the ear that only the people who listened to it as a special record managed to get off on it."

Guitarist Eric Bell, who was sitting with Phil in the interview room of their publicist's London flat, thought the record was a mistake. "Like with Slade, every number has the same basic sound."

"Yeah", said Phil, "that's maybe the best way to do it for singles. Stick to the same sound with each record, then

change when people are used to you and when you want to do album tracks."

It's been a year since Lizzy's second album was released and now their third, Vagabonds Of The Western World, is out.

"We spent a lot of time recording it so consequently it's a better production. We hope it will level out the band, and that people will listen to it to know what we are about", says Phil.

Among the tracks is a song about ecology, Mamma Nature, a song about Hells Angels, The Rocker, and a Song For While I'm Away which Phil says is "an old fashioned love song".

"It's the sort of song that could have been sung before queers became popular", he says smiling. "A feller never turned to his friend and

Eric: "I think to a certain extent you have to gear yourselves to what is going on. I was the worst